thermal power stations, intensive monitoring of the grid operations and day to day coordination of supply of power from various sources of generation etc. In addition, Andhra Pradesh is also entitled to its share from the Central generating stations in the region. Assistance is also being provided to Andhra Pradesh from the neighbouring States depending upon the system conditions.

Collection of advances for Maruti 1000 cc Car

*97. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited have been permitted to manufacture Maruti 1000 cc, a luxury car;

(b) whether M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited have been collecting advances from the prospective purchasers of these cars;

(c) if so, what is the amount collected so far and what amount of interest has been earned by the Company thereon; and

(d) whether M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited have also called for the Income-tax numbers from the applicants alongwith the advances ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Maruti Udyog Limited has been permitted to manufacture 1000 cc 3-Box Car. The MUL collected customer bookings from 14th November to 16th December, 1989 for the above Car. The initial deposit collected per booking was Rs. 25,000. The total bookings received were 2,51,387 and the total amount received was Rs. 628·46 crores. The total bookings being retained are 25,000 only for which an amount of Rs. 62·50 crores is being retained. Because of the short duration of the deposits, the interest earnings are expected to be in the region of Rs. 18 to 20 crores. MUL did not call for their Income tax numbers from the applicants.

Alternative Airport at Cochin

*98. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the long pending demand for an alternative airport for Cochin which is the industrial centre of Kerala;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) to (c) Government have examined the following options for upgradation of the Cochin airport :—

(i) Extending the main runway of the airport by 2000 feet and strengthening the same for Airbus operations;

(ii) Realignment of the secondary runway presently used for Naval operations and extending it by 5000 feet; and

(iii) Construction of a new airport at an alternative site.

2. Of these options, the construction of a new airport is not considered to be a feasible proposition both because of the non-availability of suitable land as well as the very high cost of the project. Of the other two options, the second